

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00  
USIE-00 INR-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01  
AID-05 INRE-00 /069 W

-----114906 281432Z /44

O P 281202Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3085

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DACCA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY

AMCONSUL LAHORE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 7698

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PK

SUBJECT: GENERAL ZIA ADDRESSES THE NATION

1. IN A FORTY MINUTE NATIONWIDE ADDRESS ON THE EVENING OF JULY 27, GENERAL ZIA ANNOUNCED THAT LIMITED POLITICAL ACTIVITIES WILL BE PERMITTED IN THE COUNTRY FROM AUGUST 1, DECLARED THAT THE POLITICAL LEADERS NOW IN PROTECTIVE CUSTODY WOULD BE RELEASED WITHIN "A DAY OR TWO" AND REITERATED THAT ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD IN OCTOBER.

2. ADDITIONAL KEY POINTS IN GENERAL ZIA'S SPEECH, HIS SECOND  
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SINCE THE PROCLAMATION OF MARTIAL LAW ON JULY 5, WERE:

--NEW ELECTION RULES AND CODE OF CONDUCT HAVE BEEN APPROVED AND WILL BE MADE PUBLIC BY THE CHIEF ELECTION COMMISSIONER AT A NEWS CONFERENCE JULY 28.

--DURING THE PERIOD OF LIMITED POLITICAL ACTIVITY PARTY LEADERS WILL BE ALLOWED TO MEET WITH ONE ANOTHER AND THEIR SUPPORTERS "WITHIN FOUR WALLS", BUT THE BAN ON POLITICAL

SPEECHES, RALLIES AND NEWSPAPER STATEMENTS WILL CONTINUE.

--FULL-FLEDGED ELECTION CAMPAIGN WILL BEGIN AFTER THE EID-UL-FITR HOLIDAY IN MID-SEPTEMBER AND END TWO DAYS BEFORE POLLING DATE.

--POLITICAL PARTIES WILL BE GIVEN EQUAL FACILITIES ON RADIO AND TV DURING THE CAMPAIGN, BUT NO PROCESSIONS WILL BE ALLOWED.

--PRESS SHOULD KEEP THE NATIONAL INTEREST IN FOCUS AND AVOID PUBLISHING INFLAMMATORY NEWS.

--BAN ON POLITICAL ACTIVITY BY TRADE UNIONS WILL CONTINUE.

--STUDENTS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO TAKE PART IN POLITICS.

3. REFERRING TO HIS EARLIER MEETINGS WITH THE POLITICAL LEADERS IN MURREE, ZIA SAID THAT HE DISCUSSED THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

--ALL PARTIES SHOULD GIVE PRIORITY TO NATIONAL UNITY AND INTEGRITY AND SHOULD NOT ENCOURAGE REGIONAL PREJUDICES OR SECTARIANISM.

--AN ISLAMIC ORDER MUST BE ESTABLISHED.

--THE 1973 CONSTITUTION REMAINS INTACT INCLUDING PROVISIONS FOR PROVINCIAL AUTONOMY.

--THE HYDERABAD TRIBUNAL (WALI KHAN CASE) WILL BE ALLOWED TO PROCEED.

--THE ARMY WILL WORK TO CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE CONDUCIVE FOR ELECTIONS IN BALUCHISTAN.

IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE POLITICAL PRESCRIPTIONS, ZIA MADE CONFIDENTIAL

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SEVERAL REFERENCES TO THE ECONOMY WHICH ARE BEING COVERED IN SEPTEL.

4. COMMENT: ZIA'S SPEECH, COMING AFTER MORE THAN THREE WEEKS OF INTENSE SPECULATION ABOUT THE POLITICAL FUTURE OF THE COUNTRY, WAS TIMELY AND REASSURING ALTHOUGH HEAVILY ISLAMIC AND SOMETIMES PREACHY IN TONE. IT DEMONSTRATED THAT HE REMAINS PARAMOUNT IN THE MILITARY COUNCIL AND THAT HE IS STILL COMMITTED TO HOLDING ELECTIONS IN OCTOBER. IN ADDITION, HIS ANNOUNCEMENT THAT ALL POLITICAL LEADERS WOULD BE RELEASED IN THE NEXT DAY OR TWO INDICATES THAT BHUTTO WILL BE ALLOWED TO CONTEST THE ELECTIONS. EARLIER SPECULATION THAT THE ARMY MIGHT KEEP HIM OUT OF THE RACE HAS BEEN SQUASHED, AT LEAST FOR THE MOMENT.

5. ZIA MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE POLITICAL LEADERS JRE BEING RELEASED ON GOOD BEHAVIOR, EMPHASIZING THAT IF ANY OF THE LIMITES ON POLITICAL ACTIVITY STIPULATED FOR THE INTERIM PERIOD BEFORE THE CAMPAING STARTS ARE VIOLATED, THE ARMY WOULD BE FORCED TO REVIEW THE SITUATION. HE MADE NO REFERENCE TO ANY POSSIBLE INVESTIGATIONS AGAINST POLITICAL FIGURES, BUT NOTED THAT THE CIVIL COURTS ARE WORKING NORMALLY AND

"THE PEOPLE CAN PLAY THEIR PROPER ROLE," GIVING TACIT  
APPROVAL TO THOSE WHO HAVE BROUGHT CASES AGAINST BHUTTO  
AND OTHER KEY PPP LEADERS.

6. REACTION TO ZIA'S SPEECH HAS GENERALLY BEEN POSITIVE  
AND THE OUTLINE FOR THE COMING ELECTION CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN  
CLEARLY LAID DOWN. ZIA'S MAIN PROBLEM NOW WILL BE TO  
RESTRAIN THE POLITICIANS EFFECTIVELY AND PREVENT THE  
OUTBREAK OF VIOLENCE. THIS WILL NOT BE EASY, BUT HE WILL  
HAVE A FORTY-FIVE DAY PERIOD BEFORE THE OPENING OF THE  
CAMPAIGN IN MID-SEPTEMBER TO TEST THE PARTIES, AND IF  
NECESSARY, INTERVENE TO RESTRICT THEIR ACTIVITIES. MANY  
UNKNOWN LIE AHEAD, BUT ZIA IS STILL MOVING IN THE RIGHT  
DIRECTION TOWARD A RETURN TO REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT.  
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HUMMEL

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## Message Attributes

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